

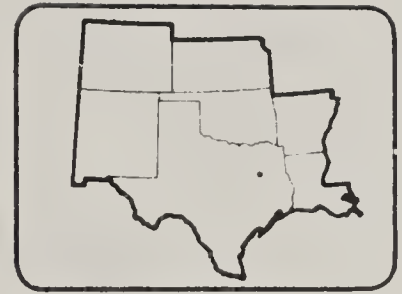
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SOUTHWEST REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICE

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1100 Commerce Street • Room 5-C-40 • Dallas, Texas 75242
Telephone (214) 749-3331 Stark



July 2, 1979

USDA Proposal Would Assure Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed regulations to require humane handling and slaughter of livestock slaughtered domestically or in foreign plants which export meat to the U.S.

The proposal would extend current requirements for humane slaughter, implemented in 1960. Under the proposed amendments to meat inspection regulations, handling of livestock in pens prior to slaughter must also meet standards and procedures for humane treatment. The Provisions apply not only to federally inspected plants, but also to foreign plants shipping meat to the U.S.

The proposal would strengthen enforcement authority, enabling USDA to suspend or withhold inspection from a violator.

The humane practices apply to slaughter and handling of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules and other equines. Under the new law, states which have their own meat inspection systems must implement similar requirements.

The proposal implements the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978, enacted in October 1978.

Comments on the proposal, which is scheduled to be published in the June 29 Federal Register, will be accepted until Aug. 28. Comments should be sent in duplicate to the executive secretariat, Attn: Annie Johnson, room 3807-S, Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

